



## 150 YEARS OF SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Div.Sch.  
Quarto  
BX  
8481  
.S54  
A155  
1978

DUKE UNIVERSITY  
DIVINITY SCHOOL  
LIBRARY



GIFT OF

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church  
.....



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2013

<http://archive.org/details/150yearsofsharin00char>





Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church  
Route 2  
Sherrills Ford, North Carolina



150 Years  
of  
Sharing  
God's Love  
1828-1978



## PREFACE

“One Hundred and Fifty Years of Sharing God’s Love” is a word-picture of the Mount Pleasant people — a people who acknowledged God’s love in the past, a people who seek to love in the modern world, and who confidently expect God’s love to guide the future.

The book begins with a historical sketch because no church can responsibly serve its time without a memory of its beginnings. Here memories stretch backward through good and hard times, war and peace, to 1828; here there are memories with pictures of some families who are representative of all families who served the Lord so faithfully through Mount Pleasant.

This book is more than historical memories; it

shows the Mount Pleasant people whose lives have been touched by God’s love, who have sacrificed for His Church, and who have been faithful throughout the years. Their lives are gratefully remembered.

Mount Pleasant is more than a history; it is people today, heirs of a proud tradition, continuing the work so well begun. Here is a picture of people today responding to God’s love and seeking to share that love in ministry and service.

Grateful for the past, celebrating and sharing God’s love in the present, and dedicated to Him who controls the future, the Mount Pleasant people joyfully celebrate “One Hundred and Fifty Years of Sharing God’s Love.”

During the 1950’s, when W. A. Rock was pastor, the congregation gathered for this group picture.







To begin the 150th anniversary celebration, a large congregation gathered on Homecoming Day in May 1978.





## INTRODUCTION

The fervor of the times carried over into the practice and development of religion. As a

method of reaching the unchurched, the mass revival was developed in the northern sections of the country, primarily by the Presbyterians. Southern Methodists quickly adopted the revival as a tool of evangelism. The Methodist doctrine of free grace and salvation, the Methodist form of government, and circuit riding preachers enabled the denomination to be more effective in reaching the unchurched than other denominations such as the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches. Methodists soon combined the revival and camp meeting to reach back-country areas to convert thousands and organize hundreds of churches.

1834 Deed

[illegible][illegible]

By the late 1700's, Methodism had reached the Catawba County area where frontier Methodists banded together in churches and camp meetings. Rehobeth Church was established about 1789 and the Rock Springs Camp Meeting began around 1794. Among the most famous preachers in North Carolina during this time were Daniel Asbury, William McKendree, and William Waters. By the early 1800's, Methodism was established as a predominant religious influence in what is now Catawba County.

Because of these three reasons: (1) well-planted congregations, (2) doctrine, polity, and zeal, and (3) a willingness to use new methods of evangelism such as camp meetings and revivals, by 1828, Methodism entered the period of its most rapid growth in numbers and influence.

### BEGINNING

By August of 1828, Childers Methodist Episcopal Church was a strong and active congregation. This church, the direct antecedent of

the Mount Pleasant of today, was a part of the Lincoln Circuit of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Other churches on the circuit were Friendship, Old Salem, Tabernacle, Providence, Cross Roads, Salem, Willaces, Lincolnton, Mt. Zion, Concord, Mt. Pisgah, Lowes, Ebenezer, Bethsaida, Shilo, Carpenters, Givene's, Williame's, Boyle's, Sharon, Springford, Sherrills, Hopewell, Rehobeth and Bethel.

The new church took its name from Robert and Lydia Childers and was first located near a spring on their property. (This property is now known as the Frank Sigmon estate. The tradition is that the Robert Childers' home and church were about 300 yards north of the present house near the spring with the graveyard being located across a branch on property now owned by the Duke Power Company. The remains of the cemetery are still there.) The deed for the Childers Church indicates that the Trustees of the Lincoln Circuit paid Robert and Lydia Childers twenty pounds for the plot. The deed is dated A. D. March 1834 and the Trustees are: Henry Asbury, Isaac Lowe, Thomas S. Mays, George Little, Adam Sherrill, Jacob Hill, Richard Proctor, James Bivens, and Samuel Saunders. Since Quarterly Conference records mention the church in 1828, the deed was drawn at least six years following the founding of the church.

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely a bill of sale or deed.]*

I know all men by these presents that I do bind of the County of Lincoln & State of North Carolina hath bargained and sold unto Isaac Lowe one Negro boy by the name of Bert about forty years old for and in consideration of him to four hundred dollars to me on hand paid by the said Isaac Lowe which I warrant and defend the said boy to be free and a Berryman Cook & Nancy Childers & Hugh Thompson & George & Eliza Morrison Thompson or he or she in his or her name sign the Right & title of the said boy as to their parts age every other person the Right - hereby seen and signed given in our hands & seals this 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1834

Isaac Lowe  
Nancy Childers  
Berryman Cook  
Nancy Childers  
Hugh Thompson

*[Signatures and stamps, including "Seal" and "1834"]*

North Carolina  
County of Lincoln  
The execution of the within Bill of Sale was duly proved in open Court by the oath of Isaac Lowe & Bert Cook a duly qualified and it was ordered to be Registered

*[Signature]*

For the other portion of the same see Vol 13-Book 52 Page 562



# REPORT AND DIRECTORY

Rock Springs Circuit, 1895.

Western N. C. Conference, M. E. Church, South.

## NOTE.

- Names in *italics* were received into the church during the year.
- Names in brackets ( ) have been excused by church conference from payment of dues in whole or in part for good cause shown.
- The figures following each name represent decimally the dollars paid by the individual, first for the support of the ministry, and second for "the collections ordered by the annual Conference" for our connectional work, thus A. C. Sherrill \$5.00, \$8.50 shows that Brother Sherrill paid \$5.00 for the support of the ministry and \$3.50 for the various collections.
- If a name has no figures following it, or if a blank is where figures should be it denotes there is nothing paid.
- The title Mrs. is only used before the names of widowed ladies. The greatest pains have been taken to make this report absolutely correct, yet there will doubtless be some mistakes discovered, in all of which let us make the *anxious* honorable.

## MOUNT PLEASANT.

OFFICIAL BOARD.—Rev. J. A. Sherrill, L. E. and Chm.'s Board Trustees.  
P. P. Sherrill, John A. Little, F. O. Robeson, Stewarts; L. P. Eckard, St. Class Leader and Superintendent of Sunday Schools.  
PREACHING every 2nd Sunday at 1 a. m. and 4th Sunday 3:30 p. m.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 a. m., except 4th Sunday at 2 p. m.

## CHURCH MEMBERS.

V. Edmond Allen.....\$ 1.00 8 50  
Mary M. Allen.....25  
Jaggie G. Allen.....25 25  
Dea Belle Allen.....25 25  
Mrs. Mary Allen.....25 25  
Albert A. Armstrong.....50  
ennie Armstrong.....25  
I. Conner Barclay.....  
omas T. Beatty.....3.00 1.00  
Julia Beatty.....1.00 25  
Sarah Beatty.....25  
Luther Bynum.....  
ary Bynum.....  
Robert Caldwell.....2.00 1.00  
Janie Caldwell.....3.00 35  
no. P. Campbell.....2.50 50  
lice Campbell.....25 25  
Mrs. Martha Crawford.....1.00 25  
Vm. Childers.....  
Sarah Childers.....35

L. P. Eckard.....	4.00	1.00	Mary S. ".....	1.00
Sarah L. Eckard.....	50	25	Matthie E. ".....	25
B. Ann Eckard.....	25	25	Charles ".....	25
Mrs. Sarah M. Eckard.....	50		Thomas ".....	1.00
Rebecca M. Gabriel.....	1.00	25	Julia Ann ".....	25
H. S. Gabriel.....	3.00	1.00	Lawson A. Rudacil.....	25
Bruce A. Gabriel.....	50	25	Susan Rutledge.....	25
Donna Gabriel.....	50	25	Rev. J. A. Sherrill, L. E.....	20.00 10.00
John W. Gabriel.....	2.50	1.50	Mary.....	75
Mary Gabriel.....	1.25	50	G. Powell ".....	5.50 2.00
Julio Gabriel.....	1.25	30	Nannie C. ".....	2.50 1.00
Walter Gabriel.....	2.00	1.00	Barbary.....	50 1.00
Susan A. R. Goodson.....			S. Augusta ".....	50 50
E. Jenkins.....			Sallie E. ".....	1.00 1.00
Doria.....			Matthie G. ".....	50 50
Carrie.....			Emma L. ".....	50 50
Abbie B. Holdayman.....			W. Marion ".....	2.50 2.50
Julia Hicks.....	75	50	Fannie Sigmond.....	10
Levi S. Hicks.....	25	25	Augusta.....	10
Minnie Z. Hicks.....	1.00	25	Mrs. N. Perlina Shelton.....	50 30
Mrs. Jane R. Howard.....	1.00	25	Lomax.....	10 10
Laura E. ".....	1.00	30	E. Lock.....	
John F. ".....	1.00	30	Laura A. ".....	
Lenora C. ".....	1.00		Sudia ".....	
J. Edward ".....	1.00		David P. Smith.....	1.00
Fannie ".....	1.00		Sarah E. ".....	
Mrs. Susan ".....			Collections.....	2.00
Susan C. ".....			Individual friends.....	10
Lee.....	50		Sunday School.....	66
Ira.....	50			
Rebecca Candins.....	1.00	25	Total from all sources \$110.00 \$54.16	
F. Rinaldo.....	1.00	25		
Fred H. Linebarger.....	1.00	25		
Caroline.....	1.00	25		
J. Worth.....	1.50	25		
Elizabeth.....	50	25		
Alonso.....	50	25		
Carl.....	50	25		
Thomas Little.....				
Jno. A. ".....	3.00	1.25		
M. Anne ".....	50	75		
J. Will ".....	2.00	2.00		
M. Alice ".....	50	50		
G. P. Alonzo ".....	1.00			
F. Lock ".....	2.00	75		
Lela V. ".....		25		
John A. ".....				
Cornelia ".....				
Landy W. Lockman.....	75			
Julia A. ".....	50			
Luzetta ".....				
E. Bessie ".....		10		
L. Elizabeth McCall.....	50	25		
George Panther.....				
M. Catherine Panther.....				
Andrew J. Perkins.....				
F. O. Robeson.....	4.00	50		
Sarah P. ".....	50	25		
Lilbe S. ".....	50	50		
J. Franklin ".....	1.00	50		
Marlin M. ".....	2.00			
S. Dorie ".....				
William ".....	25			
Ada ".....				
Pinkney ".....	2.00	1.00		

"Mount Pleasant Episcopal Church South" was entered into the records. Since then, Mount Pleasant has been listed at every session.

The records show that Childers was assessed \$1.50 for the 2nd Quarterly Conference, 1828; in the year 1855, the church was assessed \$50.00 for ministerial support.

## THE TRADITION OF SHOPPER'S DRAW BARS

There is a community tradition that there was a Methodist Church known as "Shopper's Draw Bars," located just west of the Wade Sherrill home (now the Cross Country Campground). No documents which mention such a church have yet been discovered.

Until documentation proves otherwise, the tradition may be accounted for in this way. Mr. Peter Lineberger came to this country, landing in Philadelphia in 1735 where he lived until 1749 when he received a land grant of 1100 acres in Virginia. Later he came to the Mountain Creek section of Lincoln County and purchased many large tracts of land. He died in 1803 and was buried in the family cemetery according to family tradition. Other relatives, friends, and neighbors were also buried there. Probably the area was a site for selling and trading — accounting for the name "Shopper's Draw Bars." Possibly there was a brush arbor at this location for revivals and religious services and it is also possible that Childers Church met here from 1828 to 1834 until the church building at the other site was completed.

## CHILDERS BECOMES MOUNT PLEASANT

During the years following the founding of Childers in 1828, the entire country struggled with the morality of owning slaves. The Methodist Church was divided into two denominations over the issue and many local churches divided. There is evidence that some members of Childers owned slaves. Records at the Lincoln County Courthouse show that Robert Childers died in 1839 and in 1841, Lydia Childers sold a slave to Isaac Lowe for \$400.00. At this time, Mr. Lowe was a Trustee for the Lincoln Circuit.

Evidently the members of Childers became so deeply involved over the slavery issue, the Trustees of the Lincoln Circuit decided to build a new church at a new location and to permit the members to choose a church which matched their feelings on the issue.

Students attending the one room school located on the site of the present Fellowship Hall.



The Childers Church reported to the Quarterly Conferences of the Lincoln Circuit from the 2nd Quarterly Conference of 1828 through the 3rd Quarterly Conference of 1853 when the name



It happened this way. At the Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Lincoln Circuit held at Centre Campgrounds on October 16, 1852, Brother Henry Asbury moved that the preacher-in-charge be instructed to organize a church at the new building in the neighborhood of Childers and to transfer the names of the members of Childers to any other church on the circuit which said members might prefer. The motion prevailed. Brother Asbury then moved that the Trustees of the Circuit be instructed to sell the old church and lot and appropriate the proceeds to the new church. This motion also prevailed.

Property for the new church was procured from John Allen and Elizabeth Sherrill in 1852 for the sum of \$10.00. The building was constructed partly of logs and was partly covered with clapboard. The Trustees were: Henry Asbury, Burrell Wells, Samuel Lander, Freeman Shelton, Robert H. Abernathy, William M. Kerr, Thomas J. Thompson, Thomas Bozwell, and Isaac O. Robinson.

Records indicate that most of the members of Childers transferred to the new church. According to tradition, the Bishop was invited to lead a service of dedication and when it came time to decide on the name, "Cedar Grove" was suggested but some people were hesitant. Finally the Bishop, pointing to Little Mountain, suggested the name "Mount Pleasant" and it was adopted.



Seated: Logan P. Eckard, Sarah L. Eckard. Standing: Sally White Eckard, John Eckard, Georgia E. Long, Jim Long, Mary E. Dickerson, Floyd Dickerson, Lucy E. Martin, Frank Eckard, Nannie Bette Eckard.



Children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Allen Howard, Dick Stowe, Zephie, Robert, Cloy, Letha, Charlie, Lalor.



The Gilbert Beatty Family: L to R — 1st Row: Unknown, Unknown, Lee Gabriel, Wade Gabriel, Unknown, Unknown, Gilbert Beatty, Lillian G. Lockman, Jane Beatty, Nellie G. Whitener, Zella G. Little, Nona B. Robinson, Bert Sherrill, Myrtle G. Sigmon, Donna B. Gabriel. 2nd Row: Pres Cornelius, Baby Cornelius, Mary B. Cornelius, Ola R. Beatty, Baby Beatty, Jarvis Sherrill, Unknown, Chattie V. Beatty, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown. 3rd Row: Anna G. Beatty, Charles Manson Beatty, Blanche Gabriel, Lock Beatty, Bruce Gabriel, Alley Gabriel.



The homeplace of Zeb and Beulah Little and daughter Alma





The Michiel Pinkney Robinson Family in front of the 1852 church after it was turned into a private home.  
L to R: Anna, Mamie, Edna, Mattie, George, Pinkney, Cephus, Frank and Lee.



The Cephus Robinson Family



Rebecca Gabriel



Will Sherrill



France and Fannie Robinson



Lock Little



John and Alice Campbell and their children



Edgar and Mae Little



John Killian



Ivey Robinson  
Lail



Preston Lineberger and Family  
Graden, Nolen, Benson, Milton,  
Euvenia Hoke, Linelle Williams,  
Florene Saunders



Front Row: Elisha Austin Sherrill,  
Susan B. Sherrill. Standing L to R:  
Blanche S. White, Hattie S. Lockman,  
Lena Sherrill, Bert Sherrill, Jessie S.  
Link, Jarvis Sherrill, Edwin Sherrill,  
Emory Sherrill, Howard Sherrill.



Alonzo Pinkney Little  
1872-1949  
Two Grandchildren



## YEARS OF GROWTH

In the year of 1868, the Lincoln Circuit was divided and Mount Pleasant became part of the Rock Springs Circuit. The other churches of the circuit were Marvin, Bethany, Rehobeth, Webbs Chapel, Denver, Bethel, and Lebanon.

Following 1854, Mount Pleasant was privileged to have many outstanding pastors. Some of the most outstanding were John Finger, G. W. Ivey, J. W. Puett, and J. H. Page.

Perhaps the most successful minister of this era was M. V. Sherrill. Born on November 7, 1837 near Sherrill's Ford, N. C., Mr. Sherrill was noted as a man of strong convictions and he had the "courage of his convictions," as the saying goes. Of high moral principles, this minister loved people deeply. A strong preacher, Mr. Sherrill conducted many revivals and was personally active in person to person evangelism, receiving from 25 to 100 persons a year into the church. During these years from 1880-1890, Mount Pleasant showed a larger growth than at any other period in its history. Mr. Sherrill died November 24, 1902 in Denver, N. C.

It is interesting to note how the business of the Quarterly Conference was conducted during this period. Most of the items were regarding the spiritual condition of the church as can be seen by these agenda items for a typical conference in the 1870's.

### QUESTIONS

Are there any appeals?  
Are there any complaints?  
Are there any license renewals?  
How many have joined the church?  
White \_\_\_\_\_ Colored \_\_\_\_\_  
How many have been removed?  
What are we doing for missions?  
What is the general state of the church?  
What amounts have been raised for the support of the ministry and has it been applied?  
The total ministerial support for the circuit in 1877 was \$733.81.

### REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Number of attendance  
State of the Sunday School  
Pastoral Instruction to Children  
Secretary's Report

A financial exhibit of the Rock Springs Circuit for Mount Pleasant Church shows:

	Assessed	Paid
1877	\$110.00	\$92.49
1878	110.00	72.32
1879	80.00	66.25

Below: Wade Sherrill, Sam Goodson

Right: Pink Eckard



Manley Cranford Home — Mr. Cranford was a local preacher



Mothers of the Year



Zella G. Little, Nona B. Robinson, Georgia E. Long, Mamie S. Beatty





Reverend R. S. Webb reported the following to the First Quarterly Conference meeting at Marvin Church on March 8, 1890.

"... The general state of the church is hard to define. We have some excellent members, ready for every good word and work; while many are negligent, and some are immoral. Drinking of ardent spirits and revelings such as dancing still prevail to some extent. I wish the Quarterly Conference would tell me how to remedy these evils."

During this year 72 children were baptized. They were all named in the pastor's report. Other items reported at this conference were:

Pastor's salary for year:	\$750.00
Raised for foreign missions:	148.00
Value of churches on charge (8 churches):	5,000.00
Value of parsonage:	1,400.00
Total church membership for charge:	1,017
Additions by profession of faith:	90
Additions by certificate	7

As a result of the influx of new people during the 1880's, the congregation soon outgrew its 1852 building and began planning for a new one. At a cost of \$2,000, a new brick building was erected in 1891 and 1892 on the north side of the 1852 building. Bricks were made from clay found at Reed's Creek with members of the church making the brick, cutting the timber, and constructing the building.

Many of the present congregation can still recall Tom Robinson, Mrs. L. A. Womack, Cephus Robinson, Mrs. Pink Robinson, and others talk about the building. Heavy rains destroyed the first lot of brick before they could be baked and, as a result, the brick contractor from Lincolnton abandoned the project and the members then decided to finish the work themselves. Mr. Pink Robinson worked 200 days at 50 cents per day to pay a \$100 pledge he had made. Even the youth were involved; Frank Robinson and Cephus Robinson carried water and water-melons to the workers. Some of the members who helped build the church were Dr. J. A. Sherrill, John Campbell, Worth Lineberger, Hosea Lineberger, Jacob Lineberger, John A. Little, Landy Lockman, Jehue Little, J. W. Little, Alonzo Little, Rich Paine, Martin Robinson, Pinkney Robinson, William A. Robinson, Thomas Robinson, John F. Robinson, Charles Robinson, W. H. Sigmon, Henry Sherrill, Luther Williams, D. J. Williams, John Childers, John Campbell, W. W. Caldwell, L. Pinckney Eckard, Joe Gabriel, Bruce Gabriel, S. Goodson, A. R. Helderman, John Howard, William Howard, Lee Howard, Robert Barkley, Henry C. Barkley, and Luther J. Bynum.

An outstanding member of the church during this time was Dr. J. A. Sherrill who was born April 21, 1829 and lived in the house which Cephus Robinson purchased at Dr. Sherrill's death. Dr. Sherrill was a Christian minister as well as an effective and untiring physician. A generous contributor, he donated over one-half of the cost of the new building. Upon his death on

August 28, 1903, he was buried in the church cemetery. A plaque was placed in the new church in loving memory of Dr. J. A. Sherrill.

After the new church building was completed, the 1852 building was moved near the home of Mr. Pinkney Robinson who later remodeled it and made it his home. Sometime later Mr. George Robinson purchased the house and lived there a number of years. The next owner was Dan Sigmon who lived there until the early 1960's when it was torn down. The late Reverend Harold Robinson was born in this house.

As the years passed, additional property was obtained. A small tract was purchased from Jehue A. Little for \$2.00 in 1897. Another tract was procured from Cephus Robinson and later the church received the Jehue A. Little estate. Again, another tract came from Cephus Robinson bringing the total amount of land to about 25 acres.

There were other changes. The road which passed between the church and cemetery was moved to its present location. There was a one-room school located on the site now occupied by the Fellowship Hall which operated until about 1923 when it was consolidated with the Mountain View School and was relocated near the present Cross Country Campground.

#### THE MODERN ERA

From the building of the 1892 church to the 1960's were years of slow growth and consolidation. The harsh winters, lack of good roads, and the time-demanding chores of life made for some difficulty in keeping the church active. With a pastor responsible for the large number of churches on the circuit, the Church School of necessity became a focal point of the congregation's life. Yet, they had their troubles also. Rev. B. A. York reported in February of 1902 "There are eight Sunday Schools on this charge. Some of them have suspended for the winter. Those in operation are doing tolerably well for the winter months."

A forceful minister was Rev. T. E. Wagg who served from 1911-1913. He is remembered as being very stern and plain spoken. He was a strong believer in evangelism and was disappointed "that so little fruit was seen as the result of our revival campaigns . . . there is something wrong somewhere." Yet, he did not like Camp Meetings and tried for a number of years to dissolve the Rock Springs Camp. He married Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Sigmon and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Little.

After the one year appointment of J. W. Hoyle, Rev. J. H. Green came to the eight church circuit in 1915 and served effectively for two years. His first revival was at Mount Pleasant and 30 persons united with the church on profession of faith. During his time, prayer was greatly emphasized and people would go to nearby woods to pray. One quote is remembered:

"Hell would be discouraged and heaven would be rejoicing." At one time when the congregation sang "One of Them," a sister shouted "I am one of them." Over 200 persons were added to the churches during his ministry.





Children of James Pinkney and Martha C. White  
L to R: John Eckard, Sally White Eckard, Jim White, Jennie M. White, Lock A. White, Emma S. White, Robert A. White, Sue Augusta White, George White, Vert L. White.



Children of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Robinson



The Bert Lail Family

Mattie Sherrill Mock, Agusta S. White, Barbara Sherrill, Sarah Elizabeth S. Little, Emma S. White.



Yet there would be hard years to come. Rev. W. L. Shinn reported in 1918 "We have no Epworth Leagues. Our Sunday Schools are not what they should be, but are all active," and in 1919 "The Sunday School work on the charge has been hindered greatly by the influenza epidemic. We are praying for the early return to normal conditions in our work."

The years following World War I saw boom and depression. The Mount Pleasant people, like the country at large, worked, suffered, and lived to the best of their abilities.

A kaleidoscope of memories present themselves. Jehue Little, who lived to the rear of the church, once bought a car, and on one occasion when the roads were muddy, drove to John Killian's store in low gear. Arriving, the radiator boiled over and someone asked why he drove only in low gear and he replied "I had to because it tried to go off and leave me." When he died the church paid the taxes on his 17 acre property. There is a memory of Nona Robinson playing the old pump organ as Emma Howard fanned her. Alex and Coley Sigmon had only one pair of "Sunday pants" between them and they had to take turns going to Sunday School. At a Halloween party when the prize was for the "tackiest" person, "Aunt" Letha Robinson refused to play because she was afraid she would win. Buddy Howard, John Campbell, and Bruce Gabriel liked to sit around the big pot bellied stove that sat in a sand box in the middle of the church, chewing tobacco and discussing their Sunday School lessons. Sometimes other subjects would arise and tempers would liven things up. Some preachers made the children sit on the front pew and would call them down if they misbehaved. Pink Eckard rode a horse to church many Sundays and looked like a "preacher." There was a "card class" that met in the choir section taught by Mrs. Laura Goodson. Other classes met in different sections of the sanctuary — and was it loud! Jane Beatty, although a member of the Presbyterian Church, taught the children the catechism in her house.



The memories flow. A hound dog wandered into service one day and livened up the hour. A farmer announced that his sow had brought a litter of pigs and asked who wanted to "speak" for their shoat. A young girl announced to her grandmother that "Rev. John Green ought to be put in jail for hollering in church." The old church had two front doors and it was customary for the women to enter the left door and sit on the left side and the men to enter the right door and sit on that side. The middle section was used by the youngsters, young couples who could "hold their younguns down," and guests. Once, when Harold Robinson returned to preach, he remarked that the men didn't love the women any better than they used to. The big oak trees were favorite visiting places. People often found neighbors to go home with them for lunch.

In 1932, Rev. Van Buren Harrison was appointed minister. Besides his effective ministry, he is remembered for loving to go 'possum hunting. It is said that Rev. Max Brandon, Sr. preached so hard he preached himself out of a job, serving only one year.

During the years before the advent of World War II, the congregation decided to bring their building up-to-date. The front entry was remodeled and a vestibule was added. Stained glass windows were added as memorials. The educational building was completed in 1940 with a Duke Endowment grant of \$2,000, which was the first grant made in the district.

Mount Pleasant contributed a number of persons to the Armed Services during World War II. The congregation was saddened by the loss of Boyce Sherrill and Henry Lail and rejoiced with the safe return of C.M. Beatty, Lee Russell



The 1892 Church



Rev. Harold Robinson returns home for a wedding

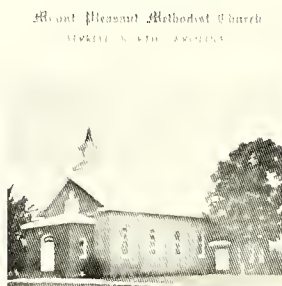


The Mount Pleasant Trio  
Irene Drum, Ivonne Drum, Nellie Howard

Uncle Arthur and Aunt  
Letha Robinson



1960 Bulletin



The Mount Pleasant Mules





Gabriel, Elliott E. Hoke, Richard S. Howard, Herbert R. Little, Glenn A. Little, Milton G. Lineberger, Nolan W. Lineberger, Lee Roy Lail, Mabel E. Robinson, Winfred H. Robinson, Horace J. Robinson, John E. Robinson, Richard W. Robinson, Henry Blair Robinson, Thomas G. Robinson, Daniel M. Sigmon, Paul Sigmon, Cletus Sherrill, Jr., Joyce Sherrill, Mose White, Seth G. Gabriel, Sarah Jane Eckard, Daniel Gabriel, Jimmie Gabriel, Henry Clay Gabriel, Kermit Sigmon, and Emmitt Howard.

During the 1940's, the church began children's Bible Schools in the summer. The children from the community would learn to sing, have rhythm bands, and memorize Bible verses. The Church Schools would close with a picnic on the creek.

Rev. W. A. Rock added increased interest in the Vacation Bible Schools by teaching leaders from a number of churches who would then work in several churches on the charge.

Rev. Max Brandon, Jr., the son of a former minister, was well loved and had a very effective ministry. Rev. Brandon, who served from 1952 to 1956, helped the congregation plan the Fellowship Hall. In March, 1956 the church approved the building and it was completed in 1957 at a cost of about \$12,000. The timber was cut from church property and much of the construction was by church members.

The Terrell Charge was formed in 1953 and consisted of Bethany, Rehobeth, and Mount Pleasant Churches. The lovely six room parsonage was erected in Terrell beside the Rehobeth Church. Bethany Church was located near Sherrill's Ford School. In the late 1950's, Bethany's members joined Rehobeth and the old church building at Bethany was torn down.

Sunday School Classes in the Early 1940's.





Women's Society of Christian Service in the mid-1950's; L to R: Flossie Brandon, Nona Robinson, Elsie Sherrill, Haster Howard, Annie Lee Lineberger, Helen Drum, Chattie Howard, Ola Drum, Irene Drum, Nannie Sigmon, Essie Killian, Mettie Campbell, Sue Nell Christenbury, Dot Howard, Mary Anna Robinson.

## Our FAVORITE RECIPES

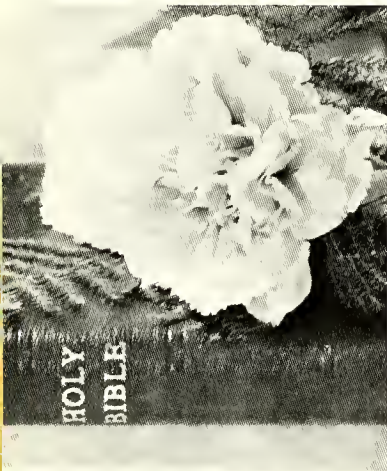


MT. PLEASANT METHODIST CHURCH

Route One

SHERBLES FORD, NORTH CAROLINA

One of three cookbooks published by the church.



"The Faith Of Our Mothers"

Mothers Day Bulletin — 1970

Sunday School Class around 1940 — Note construction of educational building.



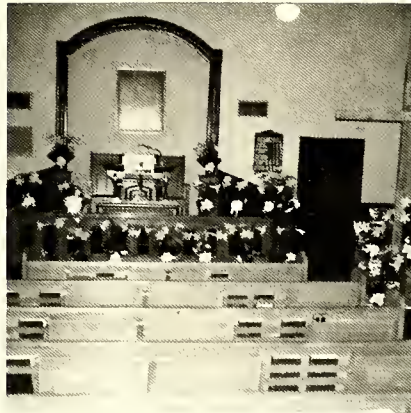
Charter Service — United Methodist Men — 1958; Seated L to R: Mose White, Clarence Gabriel, Jerry Sigmon, Wendell Sigmon, Ralph Drum, Arthur W. Drum. Standing L to R: Griffin Kale, Alvin Stutts, Loyd V. Lawing, Rev. Ray S. Cody, Giles Drum, Donald Little, Joyce Sherrill, Alex Sigmon, Harry Hallman, Tommy Lail, Jim Little, Emmitt Howard.



Easter — 1977



Youth at Day Camp — 1973



Frances Mundy, Tammy Lutz, Jewell Howard after church — 1964

Easter Egg Hunt — 1973



Halloween — 1969

Visiting Shut-ins — 1967



Girl Scouts — 1975

Christmas Play — 1975





During this period, two outstanding people were everybody's "uncle and aunt," Arthur and Letha Robinson. Born within a few hundred yards of the church, they seldom left the community. Lacking children of their own, they became "Uncle" and "Aunt" to all, especially to the ministers. They were devoted to the various activities of the church and seldom missed an event until poor health prevented them from attending. Upon their death, their estate was willed to the church and became the basis for financing the new church.

For more than fifteen years the congregation had talked about the need for new space; it was decided to build an entirely new church and educational building. Several persons played key roles: Aaron and Ivey Lail gave the proceeds from the sale of a lot; Richard Howard, Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, provided leadership and expert advice on the financial side as well as generous contributions; Rev. Gayle Ford gave inspired spiritual guidance. With \$83,000 on hand, construction began in 1976 and the \$300,000 building was consecrated in May of 1977. In 1975, the youth completed the tennis court project which cost \$7,500. The Jewell Dierwechter Circle sponsored the purchase and construction of the playground equipment in 1978.

The congregation will conclude its 150th anniversary celebration with a Service of Dedication for the new church.



Duke Student  
Bob Mochel



Finance Ch.,  
Richard Howard



Congregation gathers to break ground.



The breaking of ground — 1976



The church completed

#### Resources

Western North Carolina Annual Conference Archives, Charlotte, N.C.; Perkins Library Manuscript Department, Records and Archives of Duke University, Durham, N.C.; Quarterly Conference Records; Lincoln County Courthouse; Catawba County Courthouse.





Christmas 1976



1976 Palm Sunday Play

Christmas — 1977

Easter 1978



"Jingle Bells"  
1977



Easter 1978



Hanging of the  
Greens 1973



Easter 1977



Confirmation Class 1976



Vacation Bible School 1976





The William Marion Robinson Family



Bud and Lalor  
Lippard



The Wade Gabriel Family



Barbara Meares, Janice Lutz, Evelyn Stutts, Eathel Howard, Linda Jo Lineberger at Reception for Consecration Day.



## Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Studies Mission Book On India

MRS J D MCALLISTER  
Phone 735-7870  
DENVER At the Mt Pleasant United Methodist last Sunday night approximately 100 persons were present for the study of the mission book on India. The book was taught by Mrs. Alvin Morrison of Statesville. She also serves on the Mission Board of the Western North Carolina Conference. The group enjoyed a snack supper.



Tommy Little, Irene Drum and Mary Anna Robinson select pictures for History Book.



Santa's Helper, Glenn McKay



The Frank and Etta Sigmon Family



*From our house to your house*

Site of Famous Barbeques





### The Lord's Prayer

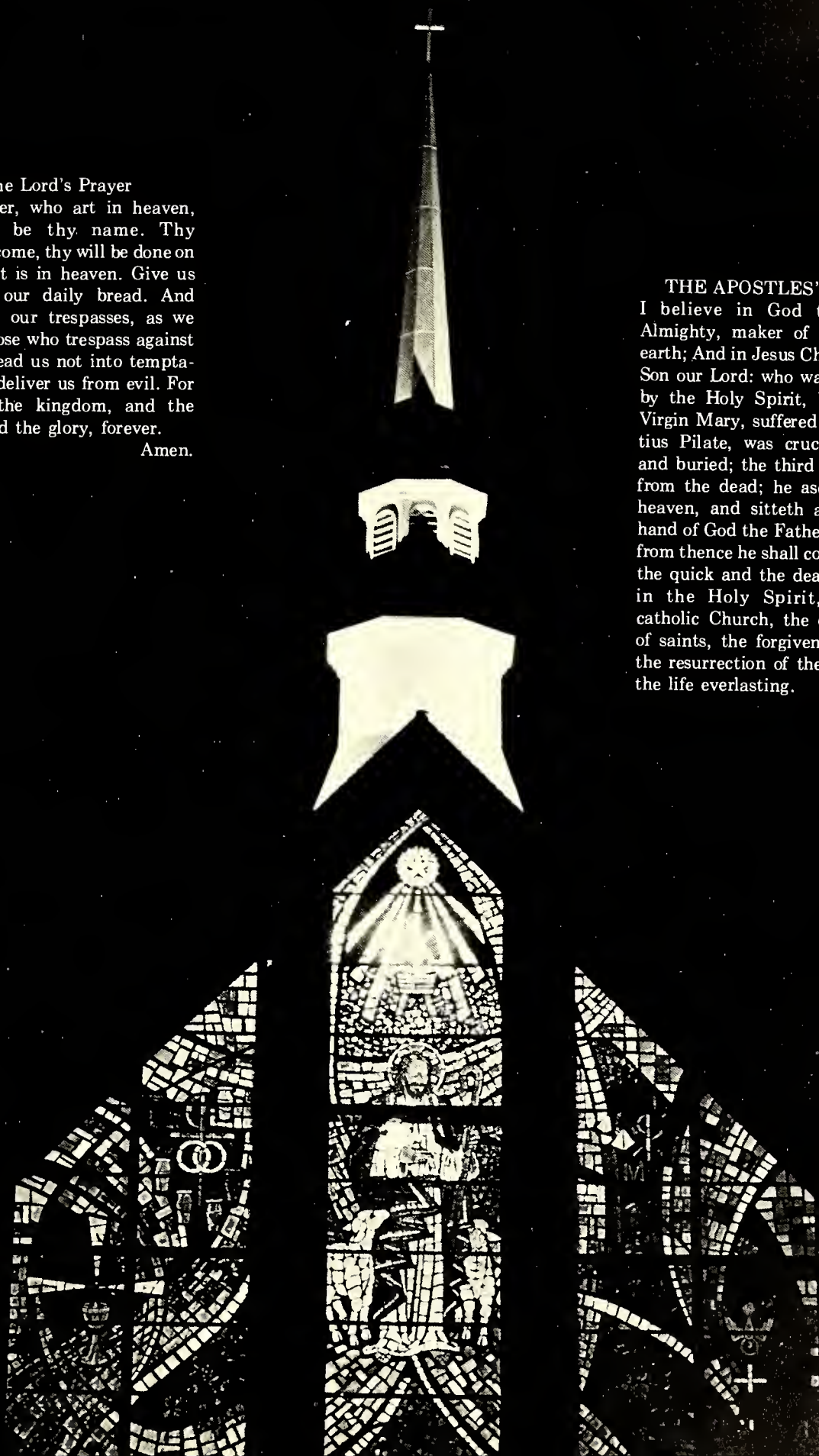
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

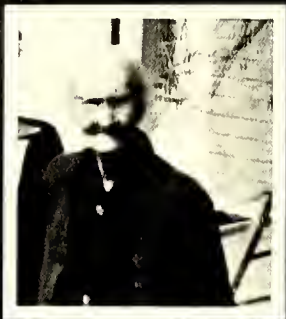
Amen.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.





Jennie L. Armstrong  
September 24, 1871 - December 23, 1958



Charlie Beal  
November 7, 1885 - June 13, 1959  
Lillie Beal  
May 23, 1888 - December 28, 1962



Charles Manson Beatty  
May 5, 1863 - December 1, 1928  
Anna Jackson Gabriel Beatty  
Nona Belle Beatty, Ural Jackson Beatty  
Enjoyed music - Choir Leader for a number of years



Jonas T. Beatty  
March 5, 1859 - October 18, 1944  
Mary Louvenia Beattie Beatty  
September 10, 1868 - August 26, 1970



Otha Beatty  
March 12, 1891 - January 15, 1968  
Lallor Howard Beatty  
March 31, 1893 - December 24, 1947



Ural Jackson Beatty  
September 23, 1895 - August 12, 1961  
Eugenia Powell Beatty  
Member in boyhood, moved away, moved membership back in later years - Both sang in choir



Adolphus Lander Campbell  
January 23, 1889 - March 3, 1974  
Church School Superintendent, Teacher, Steward  
Mettie Lincherger Campbell  
April 15, 1890 - February 24, 1977  
Sunday School Teacher, First President of WSUS, Church Custodian



Hildreth Campbell  
November 3, 1919 - October 24, 1927  
Daughter of Lander and Mett Campbell



Otha Campbell  
February 25, 1901 - August 26, 1977  
Father of five children



Arthur William Drum  
May 12, 1880 - May 23, 1971  
Ola Wilkinson Drum  
February 11, 1887 - May 13, 1976  
Mr. Drum was Sunday School Superintendent more than 20 years, Teacher, Secretary & Treasurer of Balls Creek Camp Ground.



Frank Eckard  
1879 - 1959  
Nannie B. Eckard  
1889 - 1973  
Parents of 9 children



John Eckard  
June 14, 1893 - October 9, 1970  
Sally White Eckard  
September 12, 1888 - March 16, 1970

## In Memoriam





I. P. Eckard  
May 6, 1847—December 26, 1928  
Sarah Eckard  
October 24, 1848—December 26, 1928  
Mr. Eckard helped build the 1891 building.



Bruce Gabriel  
February 26, 1861—July 3, 1936  
Donna Beatty Gabriel  
February 25, 1867—September 23, 1951



Clarence G. Gabriel  
October 26, 1892—February 2, 1967  
Member of United Methodist Men



John Wilson Gabriel  
February 6, 1851—May 24, 1916  
Adlea Gabriel  
December 18, 1850—November 5, 1933



Marshall A. Gabriel  
April 4, 1912—February 8, 1974



Wade Gabriel  
October 26, 1886—October 2, 1970  
Mattie Robinson Gabriel  
June 21, 1887—January 1, 1978



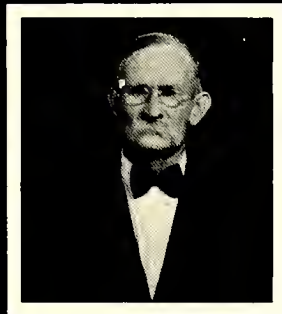
Yvonne F. Hallman  
March 7, 1906—March 22, 1973  
UMW Member, Sunday School Teacher



Dick Stowe Howard  
May 10, 1898—April 16, 1968  
Church School Teacher, Youth Counselor, Trustee, Steward, Lay Speaker, Lay Delegate in Annual Conference, Charter Member of United Methodist Men, Member of Administrative Board and Choir.



Lee Allen Howard  
June 7, 1863—October 7, 1935  
Ida Robinson Howard  
June 7, 1863—July 7, 1948



Nellie Howard  
Choir Leader



Robert Ralph Howard  
April 2, 1896—August 29, 1967  
Gave generously of his time, talents and resources to his church and community.



Celestine Killian  
October 13, 1913—August 28, 1932



Eunice Robinson Killian  
February 8, 1880—January 26, 1948



John Killian  
September 10, 1878—January 17, 1964



Lee Killian  
April 22, 1872—July 4, 1949



Sinclair Killian  
July 29, 1896—November 19, 1953  
Husband of Janie Killian, Father of  
Two Sons



Loyd V. Lawing  
April 20, 1906—August 17, 1970  
Member of United Methodist Men



Edna Lineberger  
March 6, 1896—March 7, 1978



H. G. Lineberger  
November 8, 1907—July 18, 1968



Preston Lineberger  
May 26, 1884—March 3, 1964  
Essie Lineberger  
May 22, 1866—May 14, 1949



Worth Lineberger  
May 17, 1848—June 12, 1931  
Elizabeth Beatty Lineberger



Carl Lippard

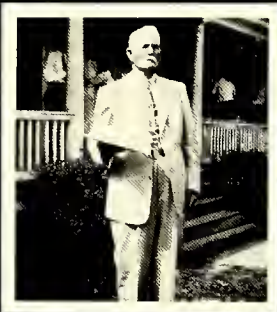
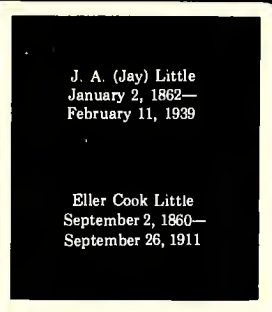


Lalor Gabriel Lippard  
October 14, 1883—August 18, 1963



Alma Little  
July 26, 1902—April 23, 1906  
Daughter of Zeb and Beulah Little





Fred A. Little  
October 13, 1891—September 27, 1972  
Zella Gabriel Little  
January 11, 1891—October 23, 1977  
Both sang in the Choir and Zella liked  
to play the old organ for the Choir.

John Wilson (Will) Little  
July 13, 1870—October 16, 1955  
Sunday School Teacher — Held different  
positions in the Conference

Frantz Lock Little  
July 10, 1866—February 24, 1940  
Lula Lineberger Little  
August 11, 1870—November 19, 1936



Willie Hershel Little  
October 12, 1932—October 25, 1953  
Son of Marshall and Amy Little

Zeb Little  
March 17, 1883—December 6, 1963  
Beulah Killian Little  
June 14, 1881—December 28, 1957

B. W. Lynch  
December 22, 1905—June 14, 1969

Lena Mae Sherrill Martin  
August 26, 1926—January 13, 1971



Bob Mundy

Maggie Allen Mundy

Arthur L. Robir  
September 1, 1877—March 30, 1964  
Letha Howard Robinson  
September 25, 1885—July 11, 1969

Cephus B. Robinson  
April 30, 1884—July 7, 1976  
Bessie Womack Robinson  
August 31, 1887—March 5, 1971



Eva Sherrill Robinson  
October 2, 1893—August 30, 1928



Grover Cleveland Robinson  
September 17, 1892—December 27, 1964



John Franklin Robinson  
March 1, 1882—October 13, 1974  
Served as Church Trustee, Steward and  
on other committees for many years  
Nona Beatty Robinson  
August 9, 1889—January 7, 1978  
Loved music and was Organist and sang  
in the Choir — Charter Member of WSCS



John Simpson Robinson  
June 19, 1813—July 24, 1898



Martin M. Robinson  
August 8, 1849—April 5, 1939  
Dovie V. Robinson  
December 13, 1856—June 12, 1949



Michiel Pinkney Robinson  
June 6, 1848—February 13, 1937  
Helped make brick for former church —  
pledged \$100 toward the 1891 building  
and worked for 200 days at 50 cents per  
day to pay his pledge



Minnie Mae Robinson  
August 28, 1881—December 8, 1955  
Charter Member of WSCS



Ralph A. Robinson  
September 20, 1906—March 11, 1974



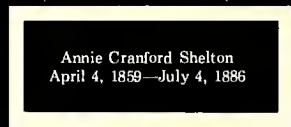
Tom Robinson  
October 29, 1873—January 2, 1971  
Julie Robinson  
July 18, 1869—August 25, 1927



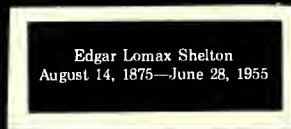
Vannie Howard Robinson  
August 2, 1906—August 31, 1957



William Marion Robinson  
July 5, 1856—November 14, 1937  
Ada Eugenia Robinson  
March 1, 1863—January 2, 1947

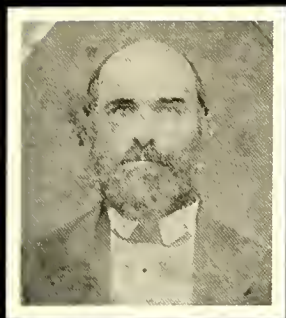


Annie Cranford Shelton  
April 4, 1859—July 4, 1886



Edgar Lomax Shelton  
August 14, 1875—June 28, 1955





Dr. J. A. Sherrill  
April 21, 1829—August 28, 1903  
Christian Minister and Physician  
Gave over half of cost of 1892 building



Ida Womack Sherrill  
June 20, 1859—March 30, 1945  
Wife of Dr. J. A. Sherrill



Bert Sherrill  
March 24, 1885—August 13, 1971



Boyce Sherrill  
March 18, 1924—December 10, 1944  
Son of Jarvis and Anna Robinson  
Sherrill killed in the service of his country



Dick Sherrill  
March 16, 1890—May 29, 1933



Elsie Little Sherrill  
December 26, 1924—May 6, 1970



Gabriel Powell Sherrill  
August 6, 1844—August 30, 1898



Melba Rena Sherrill  
March 13, 1954—March 9, 1972



Nancy Howard Sherrill  
March 28, 1845—November 1, 1924



Thomas Jarvis Sherrill  
September 27, 1887—August 6, 1971



Wade H. Sherrill  
September 9, 1881—October 1, 1948  
Bertie Robinson Sherrill  
August 12, 1883—April 12, 1970



Blain Sigmon  
April 8, 1882—April 26, 1938  
Loved to sing and was a Song Leader  
for the choir at Mt. Pleasant Church and  
Boger City United Methodist Church



Bessie Annella Gabriel Sigmon  
August 31, 1883—October 19, 1975  
Wife of Blain Sigmon



Leroy P. Sigmon  
August 27, 1896—October 2, 1964  
Church Choir Leader 1925-1953



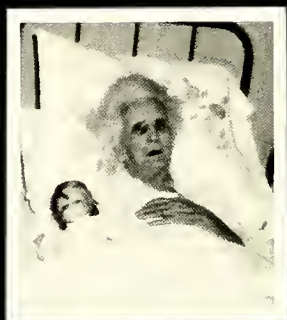
Wendell Osborne Sigmon  
May 5, 1917—February 4, 1977  
Motto: "Only one life, it will soon be  
past, only what's done for Christ will  
last."



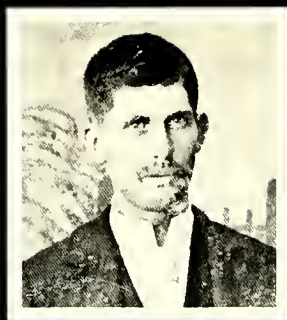
Emily Sarah Eckard Smith



Emma Howard Taylor  
November 8, 1887—January 1, 1955



Essie Lineberger White  
December 17, 1882—December 17, 1976



George G. White  
May 22, 1884—April 1, 1971



Guss Sue White  
July 26, 1873—January 27, 1952





# Sunday School Superintendents



(Beginning in 1881)  
 Pinkney Eckard  
 Gabriel Powell Sherrill  
 Ida Sherrill  
 Lander Campbell  
 Alex Sigmon

Arthur W. Drum  
 Janie Killian  
 Ralph Drum  
 Giles Drum  
 D. S. Howard  
 Vernon Lineberger

## Ministers

### LINCOLN CIRCUIT

1828-29	Hartsell Spain
1830	Jacob Hill
1831-32	Daniel G. McDaniel
1833	G. W. Huggins
1834	Thomas C. Smith
1835	John Watts
1836	J. B. Anthony
1837	James Armstrong
1838	John H. Robinson
1839-40	Daniel G. McDaniel
1841	Jacob Anthony
1842	Whatcoat A. Gamewell
1843-44	A. B. McGilvery
1845	James J. Richardson
1846-47	T. S. Daniel
1848	J. M. Bradley
1849-50	Colin Murchinson
1851	J. H. Zimmerman
1852	W. M. Easterling
1853	L. M. Little
1854	H. M. Wood
1855	W. C. Patterson
1856-57	Lundy Wood
1858	J. E. Ervin
1859	E. M. Thompson
1860	J. Finger
1861-62	G. W. Ivey
1863	O. A. Darby
1864	Daniel May
1866-67	John Finger

1885	M. V. Sherrill
1886	T. A. Boone
1887	J. C. Hartsell
1888-91	R. S. Webb
1892	Thomas S. Ellington
1893	Pinkney L. Terrell
1894-96	J. T. Stover
1897	J. C. Mock
1898	J. C. Postello
1899-1900	M. D. Giles
1901-04	B. A. York
1905-06	J. V. Clegg
1907-08	N. M. Modlin
1909-10	W. F. Elliott
1911-13	T. E. Wagg
1914	J. W. Hoyle
1915-16	J. H. Green
1917	W. L. Dawson
1918-20	W. L. Shinn
1921	J. R. Walker
1922-24	H. C. Byrum
1925-27	R. C. Kirk
1928-31	R. F. Honeycutt
1932-35	Van B. Harrison
1936-39	M. A. Osborne
1940	J. Max Brandon, Sr.
1941-42	A. W. Lynch
1943-47	John H. Green
1948-51	W. A. Rock, Jr.
1952-53	J. Max Brandon, Jr.

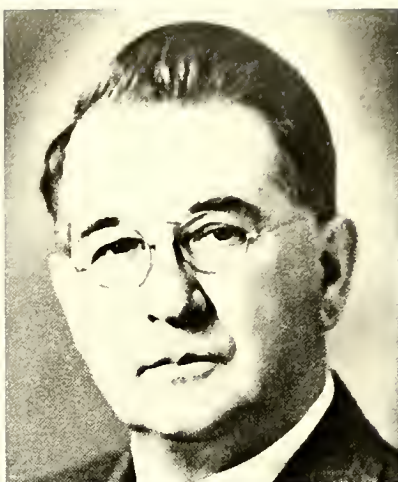
### ROCK SPRINGS CIRCUIT

1868-69	John Finger
1870-71	W. D. Lee
1872-75	J. W. Puett
1876-79	G. W. Ivey
1880-81	M. V. Sherrill
1882-84	J. H. Pace

### TERRELL CHARGE

1953-57	J. Max Brandon, Jr.
1957-59	Albert F. Gordon
1959-64	C. F. Pennigar
1964-68	Ray S. Cody
1968-72	Luther McPherson
1972-77	Gayle Ford
1977-	J. A. Law

# Ministers of the Charge



Rev. James H. Greene  
1915-1917



Rev. H. C. Byrum  
1922-1924



Rev. R. C. Kirk  
1925-1927



Rev. R. F. Honeycutt  
1928-1931



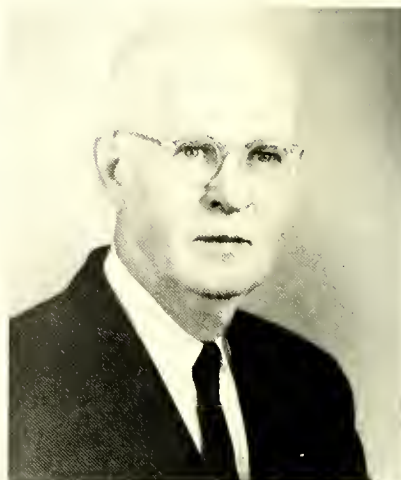
Rev. V. B. Harrison  
1932-1935



Rev. M. A. Osborne  
1936-1939

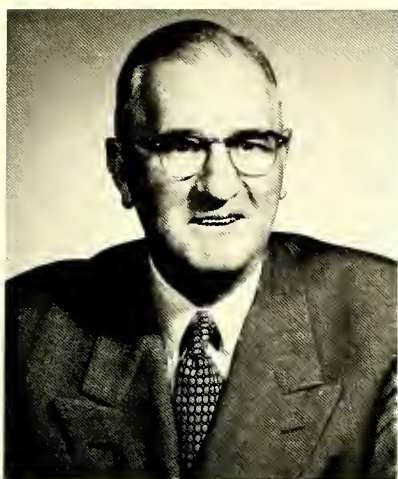


Rev. J. M. Brandon, Sr.  
1940-1941

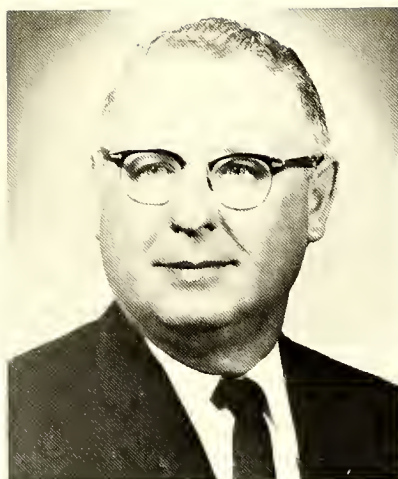


Rev. A. W. Lynch  
1941-1942





Rev. John H. Green  
1943-1947



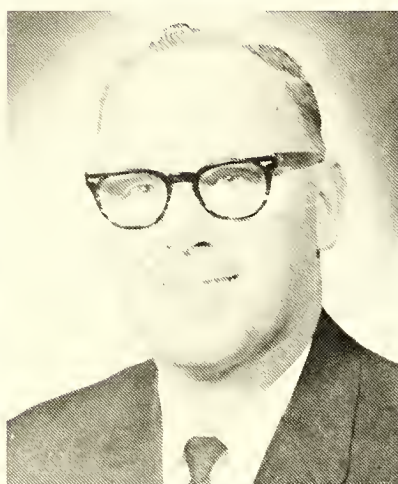
Rev. W. A. Rock, Jr.  
1948-1951



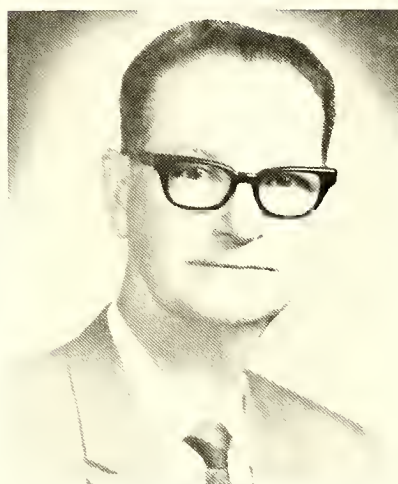
Rev. J. M. Brandon, Jr.  
1952-1956



Rev. A. F. Gordon  
1957-1959



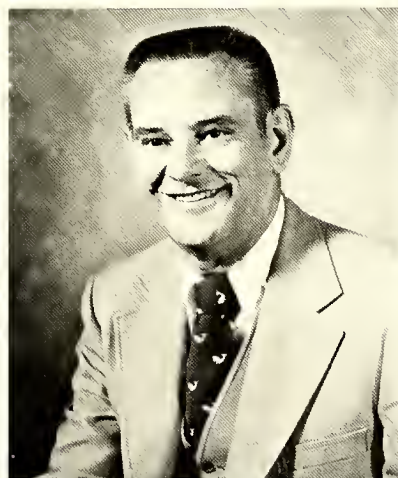
Rev. C. F. Pennigar  
1959-1964



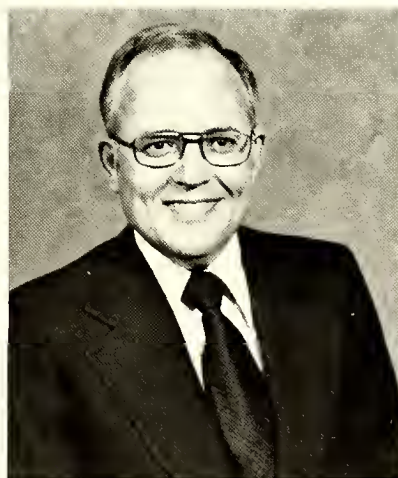
Rev. Ray S. Cody  
1964-1968



Rev. L. B. McPherson  
1968-1972



Rev. A. G. Ford  
1972-1977



Rev. J. A. Law  
1977-



# Churches of The Historic Rock Springs Charge 1868-1953



Bethel United  
Methodist Church



Denver United  
Methodist Church

Lebanon United  
Methodist Church



Mt. Pleasant United  
Methodist Church



Rehobeth United  
Methodist Church



Webb's Chapel United  
Methodist Church



Old Rock Springs  
Charge Parsonage



Terrell  
Charge Parsonage



Bethany United Methodist  
Church

# BALL'S CREEK CAMP MEETING

Ball's Creek is a development of early Methodism in Catawba County. Rev. Daniel Asbury, in 1789, is credited with the founding of Rehobeth United Methodist Church in Terrell and with a brush arbor there which is the parent of the Rock Springs Camp Ground. In 1829 there was a Sunday School at Concord United Methodist Church and in 1835 at Hopewell United Methodist Church. Out of these beginnings, concerned Methodists organized Ball's Creek.

Just prior to the second Camp Meeting in August of 1854, G. P. Routh, F. M. Abernethy, Willis Gantt, and David L. Edwards deeded 40 acres of land to a committee of B. B. Smith, James Keever, and John Marshall. Willis Gantt owned the parcel near the spring. Lawson Lowrance and Alexander Lineberger built the permanent arbor. It was lighted by candles and in the four corners there were forked stakes placed in boxes of dirt which contained pine knots for additional lighting. Split logs were laid at right angles to form seats and straw covered the floors. A horn was used to call the people to worship.

The first meetings opened on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in August and ended on Tuesday of the following week. For a while the time was set to the full moon period of August since several acts of "rowdyism" were committed



Edna R. Lineberger and Lois R. White at Ball's Creek Camp Ground.

in the darkness but later the original dates were restored. The Camp is governed by ordinances set forth in Chapter 47, Private Laws of North Carolina of 1879. These were amended in 1939 and brought up-to-date in 1978.

Ball's Creek was named after a horse named "Bald" which mired in the mud of the nearby creek and died. The spring, which has never gone dry, supplies water for 302 tents. The first tent was No. 33, the "preachers' tent"; the 2nd tent was for a Mr. Blakeley; and the first one for "tenters" was erected by E. Lowrance. The first preachers were Rev. H. H. Durant and Rev. Lewis Scarborough. "We Have Fathers Over Yonder, Bye and Bye We'll Go to See Them" was the first song.

Only three Camp Meetings have been missed: the first was in 1863 due to the Civil War; the 2nd was in 1888-1891 during the pastorate of C. M. Gentry who opposed Camp Meetings; and the 3rd was in 1948 due to the polio epidemic.

Other interesting data includes: one murder (Pink Abernethy stabbed Joe Blalock in 1881), 3 deaths, 1 birth, and 3 weddings.

Each year in August the services include a "pre-week" of preaching by local ministers, the "Big Saturday Night Singing" on the 3rd Saturday night, and the "Big Week" of preaching with a guest evangelist.





# ROCK SPRINGS CAMP GROUND

According to tradition, Rock Springs is the oldest religious Camp in the United States. Reverend Daniel Asbury, Methodist Minister from Halifax, Virginia, was sent to this fast developing area to organize a Methodist Circuit. He selected a location in a forest where Rehobeth Church now stands and held a revival meeting under a brush arbor in 1794, assisted by Rev. William McKendree, Rev. Fulwood (both later became bishops) and Dr. James Hall, a noted Presbyterian Minister. The spiritual awakening continued annually for a few years at this place with people coming from far and near, camping in covered wagons, cloth tents and brush tents.

Early in the 1800's, the Camp was moved to a spot a few miles south of Denver and it was named Robey's Camp Ground. In 1828, the Third Quarterly Conference of the Lincoln Circuit appointed a committee to lease or buy the land at Robey's, or to select a more suitable site. A permanent site was chosen at Denver and for the sum of ninety dollars, Mr. Josiah M. Munday deeded 45 acres to the Trustees. The name was changed to Rock Springs Camp Ground, from the flowing stream of water on the south side of the Camp.



Zella Little and Daughter at Rock Springs Camp Ground.

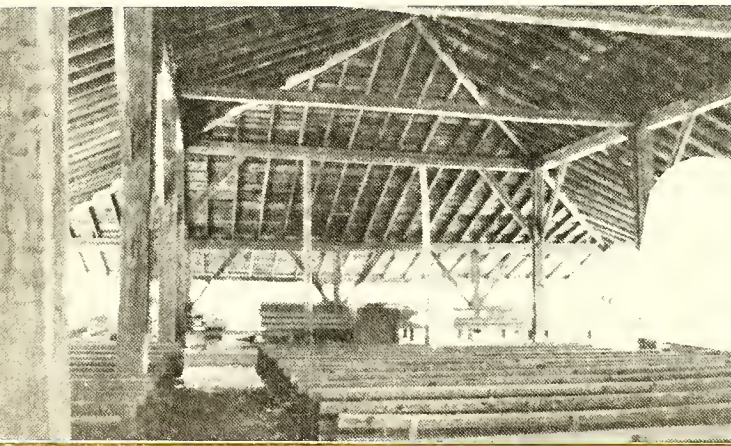
A large brush arbor was used for the first two years. Then in 1832 the present arbor was erected with hand hewn timbers. They were put together with wooden pegs — an almost unbelievable feat without the aid of mechanical devices — and the entire arbor was covered with wooden shingles.

About 223 tents were built surrounding the old arbor; they are a quadrangle of two rows and part of a third row. The tents were mostly made of weather beaten boards and had dirt floors. Tent #1, the oldest tent, was built of logs by Mr. Freeman Kelly and is still being used by members of his family. Eighty-one tents were sold in 1830 for a total of \$167.01. All the second row tents were built and sold within the next six years.

Until 1868, the blacks and whites camped and worshipped together. In that year the blacks built a camp of their own called Tucker's Camp Ground near Machpelah Presbyterian Church in Lincoln County.

Rock Springs was incorporated in 1851 by an act of the General Assembly and the Camp is operated by ten appointed Trustees and the Methodist Minister serving the Denver Charge.

Since 1828, there have been only 2 years when the annual meeting has not been held. The first time was during the Civil War when Union troops were in the area and the second time was during the polio epidemic. Eighty-nine tents on the north side were destroyed by fire on October 30, 1973 but all were rebuilt and ready for the next year's meeting.









# United Methodist Men



L to R: Front: Kenneth Chester. 1st Row: Giles Drum, Aaron Lail, Clyde Gabriel, Joe Law, Ralph Drum, Ervin Burnside, Enloe Rutledge, Harry Hallman, Bob Lutz, Richard Howard. 2nd Row: Fred Killian, Jerry Sigmon, Vernon Lineberger, Hugh McKay, Jimmy Little, Harley Chester, Mose White, Ray Padden, Jim Little, Tommy Little, Alex Sigmon, Emmitt Howard, Griffin Kale, Joyce Sherrill, Tommy Lail.



L to R: Harry Hallman, Secretary  
Vernon Lineberger, Treasurer  
John Lutz, Vice President  
Ray Padden, President

## THE MEN'S STORY

The Methodist Men's Club of Mount Pleasant Church was formed September 19, 1958 and the charter was presented on December 9, 1958 by Mr. Richard Parker of Newton, N. C., Associate District Lay Leader. Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month. Breakfast is served and the men greatly enjoy the fellowship. In the beginning, a program was planned for each meeting but in recent years, a formal program usually is not prepared.



Over the years, the group has sponsored and participated in many projects such as the ones listed below:

Purchase of new materials and an electric stove for the Fellowship Hall

Rewiring the Fellowship Hall

Helping with financing for the tennis courts

Raising funds for the new church

Annual Barbeque

Thanksgiving Breakfast for the congregation

Work on parking lot

Financing and building the Wendell Sigmon Memorial sign in front of the new church

Purchase of a new mimeograph machine for the church (Later donated to the charge)

Clearing and grading of new section of the church cemetery

The members feel that they gain much from the fellowship and brotherhood and seek to serve the church and community through the avenue of the United Methodist Men.

C T D  
O H A  
O A Y  
K N  
I K B  
N S R  
G G E  
I A  
A V K  
I F  
N A  
G S  
T



#### Presidents of the United Methodist Men

Alexander Sigmon	1958	Griffin Kale	1967	Emmitt Howard	1973
Giles Drum	1959	Jerry Sigmon	1968	Emmitt Howard	1974
Vernon Lineberger	1960	Joyce Sherrill	1969	Charles (Danny) Sigmon	1975
Donald Little	1961	Carroll Lineberger	1970	Milton Lineberger	1976
Emmitt Howard	1962-63	Vernon Lineberger	1971	Raymond Padden	1977-78
Fred Killian	1964	Giles Drum	1972		
Wendell Sigmon	1965-66	Ken Sides (resigned)			

#### Church Building Committee



L to R: Kenny Sides (Chairman), Elsie Kale, Jimmy Little, Bill Howie, Benson Lineberger, Giles Drum, Ernestine Killian, Billie Jo Lawing, Betty Lineberger, Barbara Meares, Richard Howard, Jerry Sigmon.

#### Parsonage Building Committee



L to R: Vernon Lineberger, Elsie Kale, Jimmy Little, Robert Watts, Alda Gabriel.







# Church School

## Officers



Linda Jo Lineberger, Edsel Lineberger.

## Nursery



Ryan Sigmon, Kevin Sides, Preston Michael. Teachers: Sharon Sigmon, Pam Sherrill.

## Toddlers



Belinda Meares, Amy Rathbone, Mandy Martin, Scott Sigmon, Jennifer Sigmon, Heather Sigmon, Kendall Lawing, Lori Helderman, Michael Caccia. Teachers: Sandy Martin and Billie Joe Lawing.

## Kindergarten



Michelle Michael, Chad Brown, Melanie Lawing, Hank Lail, Christina Sherrill, Alanna Sigmon. Teachers: Taffy Sides and Becky Searcy.

## G R A D E S



Jimmy Lail, Mary McKay, Lohr Searcy, Randy Shives, Baxter Rowe. Teachers: Barbara Meares and Kay Caccia.



### 3rd and 4th Grades



Shana Little, Lisa Lineberger, Gary Sigmon, Shawn Lineberger, Jonathon Campbell. Teachers: Patty Rathbone and Ollie Lineberger.

### 5th and 6th Grades



Elaine McKay, Anna Campbell, Jeff Law, David Searcy, Eric Lineberger, Shane Killian, Kenny Chester, Clark Sigmon. Teachers: Donna Jo Helderman, Betty Caccia.

### Junior High



Lisa Little, Sharon Little, Tracy Lineberger, Janeen Killian, Chaundra Meares, Marilyn McKay. Teachers: Harley Chester, Frances Sigmon.

## Sunday School Classes

### Senior High



Seated, L to R: Elizabeth McKay, Tammy Lutz, Nancy McKay (Teacher), Robin Little, Karen Caccia. Standing, L to R: Craig Rowe, Timmy Stutts, Carol Rowe, Dale Little, Shelley Sigmon.

### Young Adult Class



Seated L to R: Doug Howard, Jeff Little, Willene Little, Linda Sigmon, Rita Kale, Pam Brown, Debbie Michael, Rebecca Smith, Kim Little. Standing L to R: Danny Sigmon, Tommy Little, Tony Sigmon, Mark Little, Lee Killian, Richard Michael, Jerry Lawing, Kenny Sides (Teacher), Billy Sigmon.





### Harold Robinson Class

1st Row L to R: Hugh McKay, Fred Killian, Jimmy Little, John Lutz. 2nd Row L to R: Raynelle Little, Gail Sigmon, Ernestine Killian, Janice Lutz, Sarah Little, Evelyn Stutts, Mary Anna Robinson, Judith Law, Dot Rutledge, Nancy Lutz. 3rd Row L to R: Jerry Sigmon, Melvin Little, Marie Little, Enloe Rutledge, Richard Howard, Eathel Howard, Frances Burnside, Ervin Burnside, Maxine Campbell, Arnold Campbell, Helen Drum, Ralph Drum, Emmitt Howard, Nannie Sigmon, Tommy Lail, Alex Sigmon, Myrta Sherrill, Tommy Sherrill, Elsie Kale, Griffin Kale.



### Adult Bible Class

1st Row: Aaron Lail, Marshall Little, Lydia Gabriel, Jessie Little, Mae Lail, Mary Lawing, Vassie Sigmon, Giles Drum, Harry Hallman, Haster Howard, Cloy Howard, Mose White. 2nd Row: Evelyn Craig, Clyde Craig, Effie Berry, Ottie Robinson, Ann Lineberger, Janie Killian, Betty Lineberger, Annie Lineberger, Benson Lineberger, Lib Sigmon, Lois White, Abelen Little, Jim Little, Clyde Gabriel, Irene Drum, Vernon Lineberger, Velma Lail, Nell Howard, Don Little, Amy Little, Ivey Lail, Myrl Lynch, Chattie Howard.





## Our Church Staff



Betty Caccia, Charge Secretary with Rev. J. A. Law, Minister



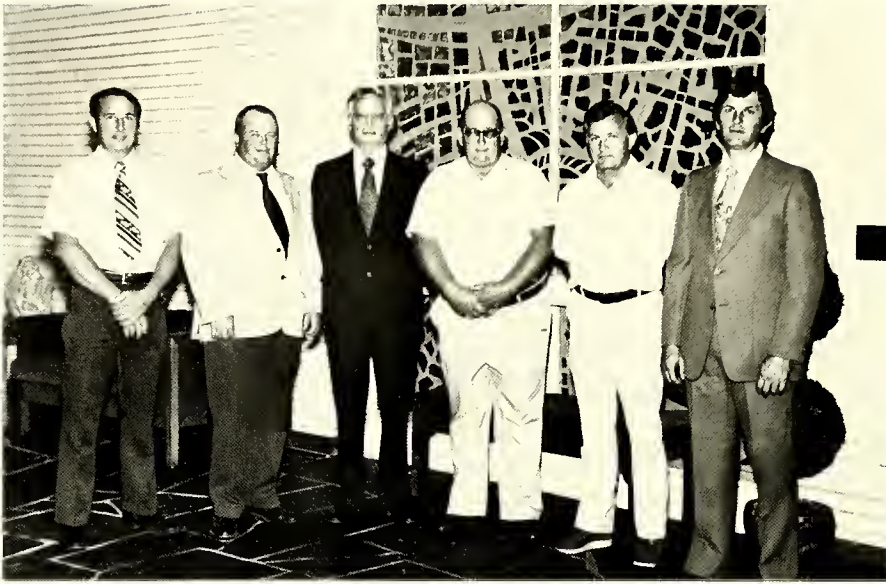
Maintenance: Kim Little, Cloy Howard, Jimmy Little

## Church School Teachers



1st Row: Becky Searcy, Billie Jo Lawing, Barbara Meares, Betty Caccia, Frances Sigmon, Janie Killian. 2nd Row: Alex Sigmon, Nellie Howard, Harley Chester, Patty Rathbone, Ralph Drum, Ollie Lineberger, Donna Helderman, Nancy McKay, Hugh McKay, Taffy Sides, Kenny Sides, Giles Drum.

## Board of Trustees



L to R: Edsel Lineberger, Lee Killian, Benson Lineberger, Tommy Little, Jimmy Little (Chairman), Jerry Sigmon.

## Council on Ministries



Seated: Barbara Meares, Janice Lutz, Betty Caccia, Kay Padden, Ernestine Killian, Janie Sigmon. Standing: Fred Killian, Richard Michael, Ervin Burnside, Hugh McKay, Emmitt Howard, Alex Sigmon, Tommy Little (Chairman), Kenny Sides, Ray Padden.





# U s h e r s

Front Row: Jeff Little, Timmy Stutts, Craig McClain, Doug Howard. 2nd Row: Kim Little, Dale Little, Bobby Lutz.

# A c c o l y t e s

1st Row: Shawn Lineberger, Lisa Lineberger, Elaine McKay, Shana Little, Kenneth Chester, Gary Sigmon. 2nd Row: Shane Killian, David Searcy, Eric Lineberger, Clark Sigmon, Anna Campbell, Jonathon Campbell.



# A d m i n i s t r a t i v e

Seated: Linda Jo Lineberger, Shelley Sigmon, Barbara Meares, Janice Lutz, Betty Caccia, Kay Padden, Ernestine Killian, Donna Jo Helderman, Janie Sigmon, Richard Howard. Standing: Griffin Kale, Fred Killian, Raynelle Little, Kim Little, Jimmy Little, Edsel Lineberger, Ray Searcy, Richard Michael, Lee Killian, Vernon Lineberger, Ervin Burnside, Danny Sigmon, Jerry Sigmon, Hugh McKay, Emmitt Howard (Chairman), Tommy Little, Alex Sigmon, Ray Padden, Kenny Sides, Benson Lineberger.



# United Methodist Women



**Circle No. 1**

Seated: Ottie Robinson, Nell Howard, Janie Killian, Kay Padden, Frances Burnside, Helen Drum. Standing: Annie Lineberger, Kate Howie, Irene Drum, Mary Anna Robinson, Evelyn Drum, Betty Lineberger, Janice Lutz, Eathel Howard.



**The Jewell Dierwechter Circle**

Seated: Taffy Sides, Debbie Michael, Frances Sigmon, Donna Helderman. Standing: Billie Jo Lawing, Becky Searcy, Judith Law, Patty Rathbone, Barbara Meares, Ernestine Killian, Gail Sigmon.



## UMW Officers



Taffy Sides, Vice President  
Sharon Sigmon, Secretary  
Janice Lutz, President  
Not Pictured: Sue Christenbury, Treasurer

### The UMW in Mission

In 1934 the "Woman's Division of Christian Service" was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Mett Campbell. The group met monthly on a Sunday morning before Sunday School, which meant the programs and business meetings could not be lengthy. During these early years the average attendance was 12 members with dues of 10 cents per member. However, due to the lack of transportation and family responsibilities, the women found it difficult to continue and the WDCS became inactive for a while.

By 1940, with interest in women's work renewed, the group was reorganized with Mrs. Mett Campbell again serving as President of the 25 member organization. The "Woman's Society of Christian Service" met monthly in the homes of the members and the group sought to provide support for missions and for the local church. After the Church School classes were added to the building, the WSCS used a room, 5' x 7', in the upstairs for preparing oyster suppers and chicken pie suppers. All the water and other necessary items had to be carried there!

Some projects in the 1940's and beyond were: a cookbook, plates with pictures of the church, the picture of Christ over the pulpit in the sanctuary,

tables, chairs, altar cloths, carpet for the sanctuary, 25 new hymnals, and the giving of the UPPER ROOM devotional guide to prison camps.

Favorite ways to raise funds were the chicken pie suppers and selling flavoring, cards, and knives. At one time aprons were made to be sold at the Ball's Creek Camp Ground. However, when Irene and Mamie Drum approached one man at the Camp, they were discouraged and yet cheered with the remark: "I've seen little aprons like that before. If you and the rest of your congregation will pay the tenth of your earnings to the church, you won't have to carry those aprons around."

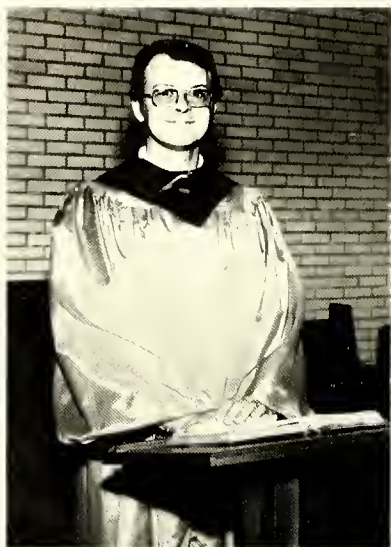
On May 1, 1972, a second circle was organized. Five members (with two women from Circle 1) met at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Sides and began the Jewell Dierwechter Circle. The Circle's first project was to clean the church for the annual homecoming on the 4th Sunday in May.

Through the years, both circles have continued to make important contributions to the church. One of the most rewarding projects of the circles is the making of gifts for area nursing homes and the visiting with the patients when these gifts are delivered. The women sponsor a bazaar at the annual barbeque where many original items are offered for sale. A clothing closet has been started in the old church building where clothes are gathered to be used for helping people in need. The new playground equipment at the church was given by the Jewell Dierwechter Circle in 1978.

The United Methodist Women continues the two-fold ministry of support of missions and the local church and is a vital aspect of the life and ministry of Mount Pleasant Church.

Those who have served as President are:

Mrs. Mett Campbell  
Mrs. Haster Howard  
Mrs. Nannie Sigmon  
Mrs. Janie Killian  
Mrs. Elsie Sherrill  
Mrs. Helen Drum  
Mrs. Irene Drum  
Mrs. Ernestine Killian  
Mrs. Janice Lutz



Mr. Sam Harbinson,  
Choir Director

## The Choir

Mrs. Raynelle Little,  
Organist



Mrs. Evelyn Stutts  
Pianist



The beginnings of the choir at Mount Pleasant are open to conjecture as no records so far uncovered make mention of music in the church in the very early days of its life. However, it is believed that there was no organized choir until a much later time — perhaps not until the latter part of the 19th century. The oldest living member of the church distinctly remembers a time when songs (hymns) were “listed” by the preacher or a designated layman and sung by the congregation without benefit of instrumental accompaniment — though sometimes aided in establishing the pitch by use of a tuning fork. Due to economic conditions and to the scarcity of books in what was still then a backwoods environment, it is more than probable that the earliest preachers who served here possessed the only hymnal in the congregation and that they lined out the words and music, which were then sung by the people until they could repeat them from memory. There being few other forms of diversion acceptable on a Sabbath Day, one can imagine that hymn singing was entered into with gusto and near total par-

ticipation by the congregations of churches and camp meetings of the day.

The first song leader who can be identified with any degree of certainty was Mr. Nollie Howard who lived just west of the church. The time was around 1895-1900. Dr. J. A. Sherrill lent the church his parlor organ and paid for lessons for a local lady to play it. The semblance of a choir followed shortly although Mr. Howard was said to have been more a song leader for the congregation than a choir director. Sunday afternoon singings came into practice, particularly during the mild weather seasons. It is not known how long Mr. Howard served in this capacity but around five years seems the most likely term. He was followed by Mr. Manson Beatty who lived some three miles northeast of the church. Under his leadership the choir developed into a fairly well defined arm of the church. The church had acquired sufficient hymnals by this time to allow all who wanted to sing to participate and Mount Pleasant had achieved the reputation of being a “singing church.” During Mr. Beatty’s tenure as song leader, there began to



appear on the market inexpensive paperback hymnals containing songs which later came to be known as "Gospel Music." These were used largely in the Sunday School and rarely at that time for worship services. Mr. Beatty moved from the community around 1914 and was succeeded by Mr. Blaine Sigmon.

At about the same time that Mr. Sigmon assumed choir leadership, Rev. Jim Green arrived on the charge as the new preacher. A mountain man and well versed in mountain ballads with a preference for a more lively and less formal type of service, Rev. Green encouraged the movement toward the use of "Gospel" music in the worship services, aided by a Mr. Rudd Newsome whom he brought in to handle the music at all his churches for his revivals during his years on the charge. The use of "Gospel" music grew until it was the dominant music of the church for many years. Several inexpensive paperback hymnals such as "Songs of Glory," "New Melodies," and "Hallelujah Praises" were used during these years.

Mr. Blaine Sigmon left the county about 1925 and his place as song leader was filled by his brother, Roy, who effected little change in the tone or type of music except that more emphasis was placed on "specials" — quar-

tets, trios, duets, etc. The Mount Pleasant Trio was started during these years and performed widely in the area at special gatherings.

Under the influence of a young seminary trained pastor whose musical preferences were more traditional, the church bought new Methodist Hymnals and these were largely used for worship services — but not often in the Church School.

Mr. Sigmon retired as choir leader about 1953 and Mrs. Flossie Brandon became the first really trained choir director in the church's history. She instituted regular weekly practice sessions and introduced more orderly arrangements to the choir members. As a result, gospel type music receded further into the background — an era in music had ended.

Mrs. Brandon moved in 1956 and the choir floundered without a leader until around 1972 when Jerry Sigmon began acting as unofficial leader, continuing in that capacity until Tim Brown was engaged around 1973 as director. Mr. Brown only stayed a little more than a year and was then succeeded by the present director, Mr. Sam Harbinson. Under Mr. Harbinson's able leadership, the choir is continuing to make a valuable contribution in the ministry of music.

Front Row: Evelyn Stutts, Elsie Kale, Eathel Howard, Janeen Killian, Janice Lutz, Tammy Lutz, Helen Drum, Frances Sigmon, Betty Caccia, Raynelle Little. 2nd Row: Sandy Harbinson, Linda Jo Lineberger, Mary Anna Robinson, Irene Drum, Nell Howard, Kay Padden, Donna Jo Helderman, Shelley Sigmon, Gail Sigmon, Sam Harbinson (Director). 3rd Row: Giles Drum, Griffin Kale, Jeff Eades, Keith Gabriel, Harley Chester, Lee Killian, Ray Padden, Ralph Drum, Alex Sigmon, Jerry Sigmon.









Junior UMYF: Seated L to R: Sharon Little, Tracy Lineberger, Ja-neen Killian, Chaundra Meares. Standing L to R: Eric Lineberger, Jeff Law, David Searcy, Clark Sigmon, Kenneth Chester, Lisa Lit-tle, Anna Campbell, Elaine McKay, Shane Killian. Counselor: Barbara Meares.



M  
O  
U  
N  
T  
  
P  
L  
E  
A  
S  
A  
N  
T  
  
Y  
O  
U  
T  
H

The first Epworth League was begun in the summer of 1932 with enthusiasm and well rounded programs which have continued ever since. The youth discovered that the church was a good place to be during those Depression years since most lived within walking distance. Programs were built around the Quarterly, parties were held in homes, and recreation included games, "lassie" candy pulls, and roasting peanuts.

The youth of the 1950's reached out to participation in sub-district and district activities. Service projects became a priority. Delegates were sent to Lake Junaluska Assemblies and United Nations Seminars. Recreation continued to be important, especially "slumber parties."

The 1960's saw cooperation with the Rehobeth UMYF with service projects, meetings, and recreation.

Rev. Gayle Ford led the youth groups to in-crease their service ministry with visiting shut-ins, making Thanksgiving baskets, and caroling the elderly at Christmas. Trips to Carowinds, Camp Carrollwood, and the beach were exciting for all. Mount Pleasant is committed to ministry to the youth.

The Musical "Lightshine"





Bill Howie, Kate Howie, and Ray Padden among the large gathering



President Russell Cook leads hymn singing



A well filled table is a big part of each meeting

### The United Fellowship

In 1972 a number of retired persons of Rehobeth and Mount Pleasant Churches decided they needed a special program to meet their need for fellowship and support. Under the able leadership of Rev. Gayle Ford, the United Fellowship of Sherrill's Ford was organized with their purpose being to meet every two weeks for fellowship, singing, inspiration, and meals.

As Lake Norman attracted retired persons from across the country, these "newcomers" needed to have opportunities to meet with others of similar situations. Gradually the United Fellowship expanded to include persons from the other Methodist Churches of the area, Presbyterians, Baptists, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and other churches — truly an ecumenical venture. To reflect the new nature of the group, the name was changed to "The United Fellowship of East Catawba County." At a typical meeting, persons from New York, Michigan, New Jersey, and other out-of-staters will fellowship with lifelong residents of the county.

A very important part of the United Fellowship meeting is to recognize and acknowledge each individual as a person. Birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones are recognized. Singing plays a large role at the start of each meeting and the host church usually has

a program ranging from serious fare to that of a lighter vein. A covered dish meal is then served. Throughout the meeting, conversations are the highlight and they continue through the two-hour period. Two special meetings each year are the summer cookout and the Christmas meeting.

Usually the Fellowship plans two trips a year for its members. In the past, they have visited Schiele Museum, Biltmore House, the Carl Sandburg Home, Old Salem, Mabry's Mill, and Roan Mountain. Foliage, gardens, flowers, and a trip to an ice cream parlor are "musts" on every trip.

A representative from each supporting church forms an "Executive Committee," which makes plans for the year. Officers are elected annually by the group. The United Fellowship meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 A. M. and the place is rotated among the supporting churches.

S B  
H I  
A R  
R T  
I H  
N D  
G A  
Y  
A





## The Persons Mount Pleasant has Given to the Ministry



Houston G. Allen

Dr. Allen was born within sight of Mount Pleasant Church on December 5, 1890, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Allen.

After attending the local grade school (located adjacent to the church) for several years, he enrolled in the Asheville Farm School. After graduation from the latter, Dr. Allen entered Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee. He obtained his B. D. Degree from Emory University and some years later did post-graduate work at the University of Chicago. Lincoln Memorial University awarded Dr. Allen the honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree late in his ministry.

Dr. Allen is married to the former Jennie Lee Apperson of Surry County, North Carolina, who has proved a powerful and positive influence in his ministry.

During the 42 years of his ministry, Dr. Allen served many churches, beginning with a small rural mountain church and including churches in North Wilkesboro, Concord, Reidsville, Lexington, Statesville, and Winston-Salem. He served a term as District Superintendent of the Winston-Salem District and for a number of years was Superintendent of the Lake Junaluska Assembly grounds.

Dr. "Huce," as many of his older friends know him, capped his career by serving for about a year as chaplain on an ocean going steamship, during which he and Mrs. Allen visited many of the world's important port cities.

They reside in retirement in Statesville, North Carolina.

Harold Manson Robinson

September 22, 1910—October 9, 1964

Harold Manson Robinson was born September 22, 1910, the son of J. Frank and Nona Beatty Robinson of Catawba County. He attended Rutherford Junior College and graduated from Trinity College at Duke University in 1931. He received his B. D. degree from the Divinity School of Duke University in 1933 and joined the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in 1933. He served thirty and one-half years.

On May 12, 1937, he was married to Ruby Helms of Union County. To this union a son was born, Harold Junior, who was a third-year student in the Wake Forest School of Law at the time of his father's death.

During his ministry Harold served the following churches: Cherryville, Trinity, Bessemer City, Winston-Salem — First, Draper, Chadwick-Charlotte, Mooresville, Thomasville-Memorial, Salisbury-First, and Dilworth-Charlotte. He was serving in his third year at Dilworth when he became ill on January 3, 1964. His service continued until Annual Conference in June, when ill health made his retirement necessary. After Conference he moved back to Thomasville, where he died on October 9, 1964.

Wherever Harold Robinson was appointed, his ministry was characterized by a warm and friendly concern for his people and by a forceful and interesting proclamation of the Word. By all who knew him he was regarded as one of the most effective preachers of our conference and was in great demand as a preacher for revival services and special missions. His great ability coupled with his warm and brotherly spirit won for him the love and respect of his brethren in the conference and the ardent loyalty and devotion of those whom he served.



## Sails for Liberia



Nurse Lineberger

Rev. Horace R. McSwain  
*Missionary Secretary*

Western North Carolina Conference  
The Methodist Church

### Jewell Lineberger Dierwechter

Jewell Dierwechter was born on August 13, 1936 to Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Lineberger. After graduation from Rock Springs High School in 1954, she received degrees from Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Charlotte, N. C. in 1957 and Queens College in Charlotte in 1959.

Miss Lineberger sailed to West Africa (Liberia) in February 1960 where she was assigned to Ganta Mission for a three year term under the Woman's Division of Christian Service as an A-3 Missionary Nurse. Here she married Dr. Ronald A. Dierwechter on November 10, 1962 outside the mission church.

The Dierwechters were then reassigned to Il Maten, Algeria in January, 1963 as a medical team with MCOR to open emergency medical work in the Kaballia Mountains of Algeria. Their next assignment was with a long range program under the Board of Methodist Missions — World Division and they remained in that work until January 1970 when they relieved a Methodist missionary doctor and his nurse anesthetist in the Katanga Province of Zaire.

Dr. and Mrs. Dierwechter returned to the United States in the Fall of 1970 with four children — all born in Il Maten, Algeria, North Africa: Tatiana, Yonn, Leaza-Miya, and Natasha. The family is presently living in Storm Lake, Iowa where Dr. Dierwechter is a general surgeon serving a rural farm area and practicing in several small county hospitals that have need of the services of a local surgeon.

## Homecoming Across The Years





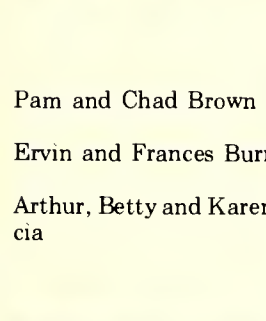
# Church Families



Kay, Aubrey and Donna Bach

Doris Bolend

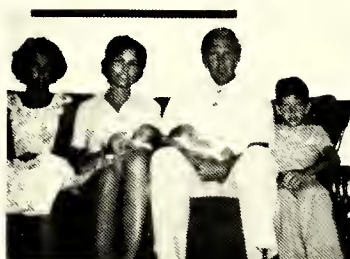
Brouxie, Carolyn, and Bradley Bolick



Pam and Chad Brown

Ervin and Frances Burnside

Arthur, Betty and Karen Caccia



Bob, Kay and Michael Caccia

Arnold, Maxine, Jonathan and Anna Campbell

Andy, Freddie, Andrea, Britt, Marcus and Brandon Canady

Frank and Norma Jean Carver

Harley and Kenneth Chester

Simbrel and Sue Christenbury



Guy and Christol Cline

Clyde and Evelyn Craig

Jeanne Deal





Ronald, Jewell, Leaza Miya,  
Tatiana, Yonn, Natasha, Art  
and Alma Dierwechter

Cecil Drum

Giles and Irene Drum

Ivonne Drum

Mamie Drum

Ralph and Helen Drum



Jane Foster

Clyde B. Gabriel

Lydia Gabriel

Joe, Charlie, Russell, & Alda  
Gabriel, Roger, Joey & Susie  
McPherson, Julie and Bennie  
Howard

Harry Hallman

Sam, Sandy and Billy Har-  
binson



Mike, Donna and Lori Helderman

Vassie Hicks

Eva Hill



Diane Honeycutt



Muriel Hood



Charles, Mabel, Daniel and Henry Hostetter



Nell Howard

Richard, Eathel and Doug Howard



Rick, Carol Ann, Leslie and Natalie Howard



Chattie Howard

Cloy and Haster Howard

C. L. Jr., Joy and Rusty Howard



Fred, Ernestine, Janeen and Shane Killian

Lee B. Killian

Janie Killian



Bill and Kate Howie

Linda Isaac

Griffin, Elsie, Rita, Rodney and Mark Kale







Aaron and Ivey Lail



Mae Lail



Tommy, Ruby, Jimmy and  
Hank Lail

Joe, Judith, and Jeff Law



Jerry, Billie, Melanie and  
Kendall Lawing



Mary Lawing



Benson and Ann Lineberger



Edsel, Linda Jo and Lisa Lineberger



Ethel T. Lineberger

Milton, Mary, Carroll, Sheila, Carroll  
Jr., Angie, Randy, Mitzi and Shelley  
Lineberger, Barry, Kathy, Bradley,  
Chad and Brent Sigmon



Vernon, Betty and Mike Lineberger



Vershal, Ollie, Tony, Tracy and Eric  
Lineberger, Cindy L. White



Vert Lineberger, Buck and Martha  
Thompson, and Minnie Hayes



Clarence, Carole, Kevin,  
Robin, and Pat Little



Donald, Sarah, Kim and  
Robin Little



Jessie Little



Jim and Abileen Little

Jimmy, Raynelle, Dale and  
Shana Little

Marshall and Amy Little

Melvin, Marie, Terri,  
Tanya, and Lisa Little



Tommy, Willene, Jeff and  
Sharon Little



Mary R. Loftin



Bob, Janice, Tammy, and  
Bobby Lutz

John and Nancy Lutz

Myrl Lynch

Brian, Sandy and Mandy  
Martin



Morris, Jacque, and Sebrina  
McGinnis



Glenn McKay







Hugh, Nancy, Elizabeth,  
Elaine, Marilyn, and Mary  
McKay

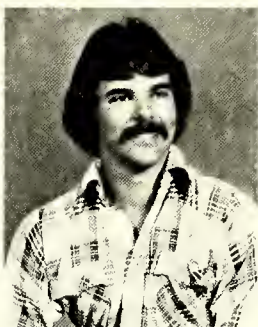
Barbara, Chaundra, and  
Belinda Meares

Richard, Debbie, Preston  
and Michelle Michael

Mike Mueller

Kay, Mike and Teri Muen-  
der

Jerry, Ruth and Frances  
Mundy



Brenda and Victor Mull

Ray and Kay Padden

Rena and Brad Porter

Wanda Porter

Ronnie, Patti, and Amy Rathbone,  
Shawn Lineberger

Emma Robinson



Ottie Robinson

Richard and Mary Anna Robinson

Roland Robinson



Winfred Robinson



Bobby, Carol, Carol Leigh,  
Craig and Baxter Rowe



Enloe, Dot, Marilyn and Amy  
Rutledge



Larry, Pat, Larry Jr., and  
Mark Saunders

Ray, Becky, David and  
Lohr Searcy

Anna Sherrill

Edwin and Gurley Sherrill



Emory Sherrill



Larry, Sharon and Mitzi  
Sherrill



Pam and Christina Sherrill

Rhonda Sherrill

Tommy and Myrta Sherrill

Randall, Teresa and Randy Shives



Ken, Taffy and Kevin Sides



Alexander and Nannie Sigmon







Billy, Sharon, Jennifer and Ryan Sigmon

Coley and Ethel Sigmon

Danny, Frances, Alanna and Scott Sigmon

Gene, Brenda, Amy, and Mandy Sigmon

Jerry, Gail, Shelley, Clark and Heather Sigmon



Jesse, Marsha, Chris and Elizabeth Sigmon

Mitchell, Linda and Matthew Sigmon

Tony, Linda and Gary Sigmon

Elizabeth, Clyde, Cecil, David, Mark, Nancy, Janie, Doris, Marshall and Morgan Sigmon

Vassie Sigmon

Rebecca Smith



Alvin, Evelyn and Tim Stutts

Robert and Laverne Watts

Eddie and Debbie White



David White

Lois White

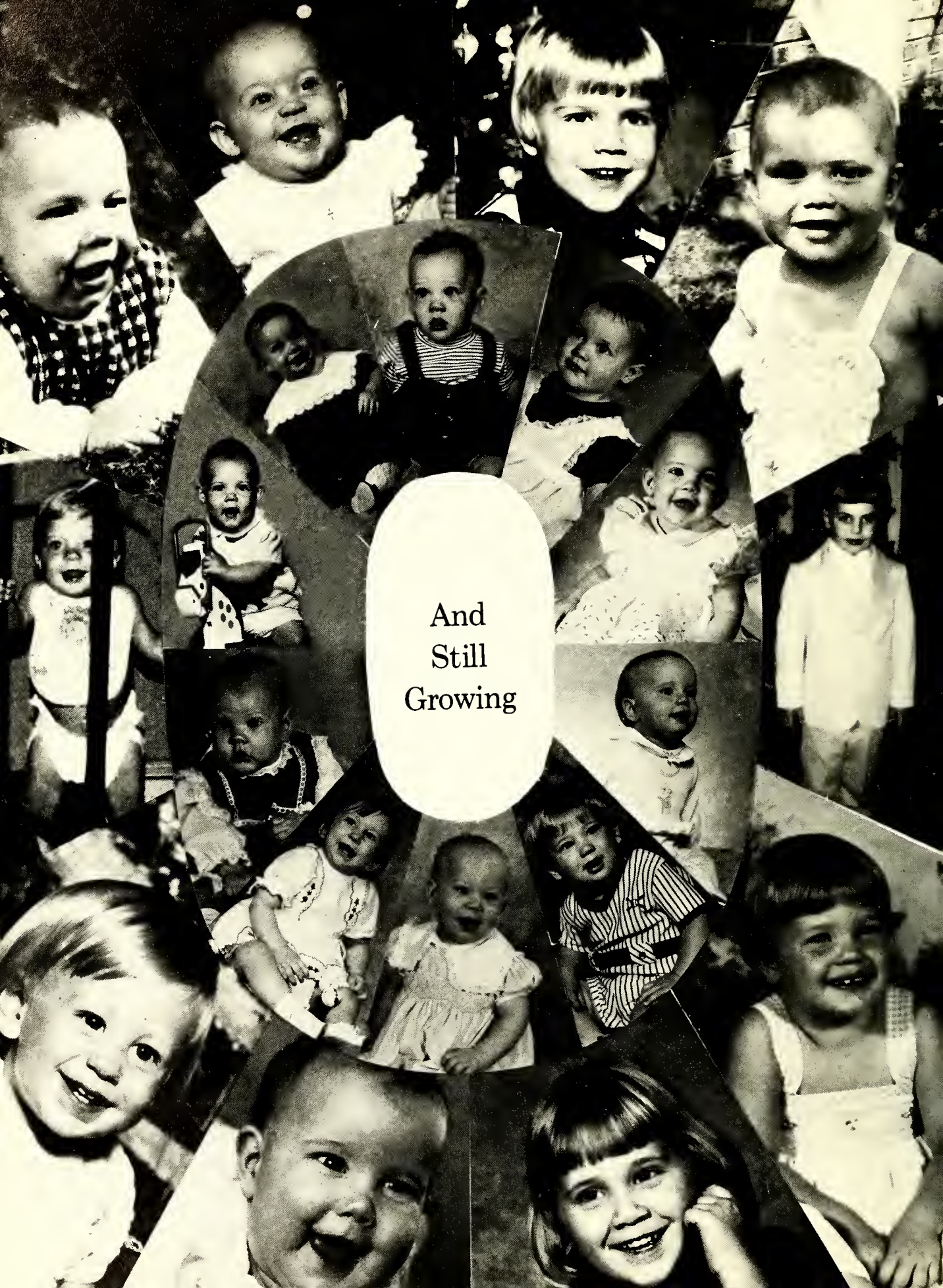
Mose and Helen White



Zeb, Wanda, Michael and  
Zeb III Wilson







And  
Still  
Growing



# CELEBRATION COMMITTEES

**BOOK COMMITTEE**  
 Alex Sigmon, Chairman  
 Hugh McKay  
 Nancy McKay  
 Bobby Lutz  
 Donna Bach  
 Janice Lutz  
 Billie Jo Lawing  
 Donna Jo Helderman  
 Sandra Martin

**TYPING**  
 Judith Law  
 Betty Caccia

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
 Ervin Burnside

**FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS**  
 Kay Padden  
 Mary Lineberger  
 Ray Padden  
 Raynelle Little

**MEMORIALS**  
 Irene Drum  
 Kate Howie  
 Eathel Howard  
 Lib Sigmon  
 Harley Chester  
 John Lutz  
 Nancy Lutz

**DISTRIBUTION**  
 Barbara Meares  
 Enloe Rutledge

Dot Rutledge  
 Evelyn Stutts

**CHURCH GROUPS**  
 Ernestine Killian  
 Fred Killian  
 Becky Searcy  
 Ray Searcy

**HISTORY TEXT**  
 Tommy Little  
 Janice Lutz  
 Alex Sigmon  
 Irene Drum

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF SHUT-INS**  
 Sue Christenbury  
 Annie Lineberger  
 Elsie Kale  
 Joy Howard  
 Myrta Sherrill  
 Alda Gabriel  
 Mary Anna Robinson

**FOUNDERS' DAY**  
 Alda Gabriel  
 Myrta Sherrill  
 Helen Drum  
 Elsie Kale  
 Polly Robinson

**OLD TIMERS' DAY**  
 Janice Lutz  
 John Lutz  
 Ervin Burnside

Griffin Kale  
 Frances Burnside  
 Nancy Lutz  
 Sue Christenbury

**CAMP MEETING SUNDAY**  
 Lib Sigmon  
 Ivonne Drum  
 Eathel Howard

**CHILDREN'S DAY**  
 Frances Sigmon  
 Billie Jo Lawing

**YOUTH DAY**  
 Nancy McKay  
 Taffy Sides

**HISTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY**  
 Fred Killian  
 Tommy Little

**1828 CHRISTMAS**  
 Barbara Meares  
 Ernestine Killian  
 Frances Burnside  
 Ken Sides  
 Sandy Martin  
 Gail Sigmon

**RECORDS AND HISTORY**  
 Janie Killian  
 Irene Drum  
 Janice Lutz

"150 Years of Sharing God's Love"

## Publishing Note

COVER DESIGN/J. A. Law. HISTORY TEXT/Tommy Little, W. A. Sigmon, J. A. Law. FACTS/Tommy Little, W. A. Sigmon, Records and History Committee, Members of the Congregation. UNITED FELLOWSHIP/Mrs. Bill Howie. ROCK SPRINGS/Mrs. Janie Killian. BALL'S CREEK/Lib Sigmon. CHOIR/W. A. Sigmon. UMW/Irene Drum. UMM/Ray Padden. YOUTH/Janice Lutz. PHOTOGRAPHY/Delmar Company, Janice Lutz, Ervin Burnside, Donna Helderman, J. A. Law, Members of the Congregation. TYPIST/Judith O. Law. LAYOUTS/J. A. Law, Billie Jo Lawing, Sandra Martin, Nancy McKay. MEMORIALS/Irene Drum, Judith O. Law. EDITOR-DESIGNER/J. A. Law. COPY/Times Roman. PUBLISHER/Delmar Company, 3300 Monroe Road, Charlotte, N. C. Limited Edition for Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Route 2, Sherrill's Ford, North Carolina. 350 Copies, 64 pages.



I am no longer my own, but  
thine. Put me to what thou wilt;  
rank me with whom thou wilt; put  
me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for thee or laid  
aside for thee, exalted for thee or  
brought low for thee; let me be  
full, let me be empty; let me have  
all things, let me have nothing; I  
freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and  
blessed God, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I  
am thine. So be it. And the cove-  
nant which I have made on earth  
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

John Wesley's Prayer  
Covenant Service





[illegible]

DEMCO 38-297







D02612642N

Duke University Libraries